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GROUP ART UNIT: 3612

NAME: Patricia L. Engle

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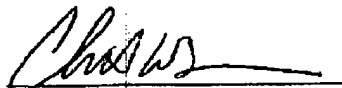
OUR FILE NO.: GP-302713/GM0360PUS

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE MAY 25 2004

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In re application of:

Group Art Unit: 3612

TOMMY E. WHITE, et al.

Examiner: Patricia L. Engle

Serial No.: 10/611,375

Filed: July 1, 2003

For: REAR AND SIDE PANEL ASSEMBLY FOR A
VEHICLE AND A METHOD OF ASSEMBLING
A VEHICLE

Attorney Docket No.: GP-302713 (GM0360PUS)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENTCommissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Madam:

The following remarks are intended to be fully responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 27, 2003.

The undersigned attorney is acting in a representative capacity in this Application under 37 C.F.R. §1.34(a). If further proof of authority to act in a representative capacity is required in this Application, please notify the undersigned via the correspondence address associated with this Application.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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5/25/04
Date of TransmissionChristopher W. Quinn
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S/N 10/611,375

Atty Dkt No. GP-302713 (GM-0360PUS)

Remarks

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, which includes claims 1-18.

The Examiner has grouped the claims into two sets: Group I (claims 1-18) and Group II (claims 19-30). The Examiner has categorized Group I as claims "drawn to a vehicle rear and side panel" and has determined that Group I claims fall under class 296, subclass 193.08 (subject matter including a rearward portion of a vehicle body). The Examiner has determined that Group II claims fall under class 29, subclass 897.2 (vehicle structural member making). The Examiner has determined that Group I and Group II constitute two separate inventions subject to restriction under MPEP §806.05(f) because:

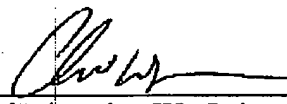
... the product can be made by another process - the panels are not required to be formed by a specific forming means. Therefore the panels could be stamped and then bent or they could be plastic and molded.

The Examiner is correct in concluding that the panels (i.e., the one-piece inner body panel member and the one-piece outer body panel) are not limited to specific forming methods in the Specification.

In light of these remarks, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted,

TOMMY E. WHITE, et al.

By 
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Date: 5/28/04

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